

Claims 14-18, 20-24 and 26-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP 6-225229 (Ishiyama). Claims 1-5, 7-8 and 10-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ishiyama in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,939,580 (Ishikawa). Claims 6, 9, 19 and 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ishiyama in view of Ishikawa and further in view of European Patent EP 617562. Applicant submits that Claims 1-32, the rejections of which are traversed, are patentable for at least the following reasons.

Applicant submits herewith a declaration by Naomi Yokoyama, stating that the translation of Japanese Patent Application 06-114154 is a correct translation. Applicant also submits the English translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 06-114154, to which the present application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119. The filing date of the Japanese Application is April 28, 1994, which is prior to the filing date of Ishiyama. Therefore, Applicant submits that Ishiyama is not prior art to Applicant's invention and the rejection in view of Ishiyama should be withdrawn.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy

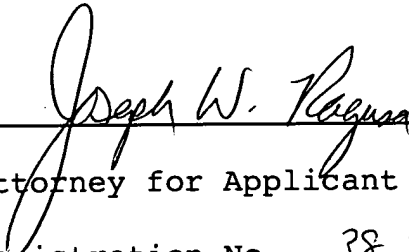
the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against any of the independent claims herein. The independent claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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